

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed September 11, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to January 11, 2007. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on November 26, 2003; March 4, 2004; August 18, 2005; June 8, 2006; November 22, 2006; and March 15, 2007.

A further Information Disclosure Statement was filed October 5, 2007 (received by OIPE October 9, 2007), and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

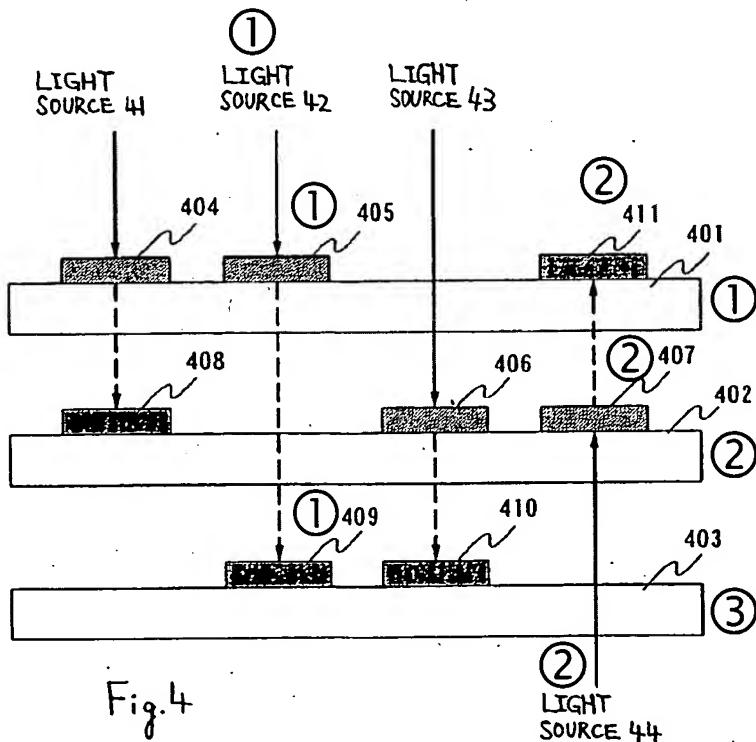
Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39 and 43-54 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 43, 48 and 52 are independent. Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 37, 38 and 52-54 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (Box 4a, Office Action Summary; Paper No. 20070816). Claims 33, 43 and 48 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 33-35, 39, 43-45 and 47 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,268,679 to Shannon. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended. Specifically, independent claims 33 and 43 have been amended to recite a first external light source and a second external light source. For the reasons provided below, the Applicant respectfully submits that Shannon does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

The present invention relates to an electronic circuit device. For example, in Figure 4 of the subject application (reproduced and annotated below), the electronic circuit device comprises a light source 42 (first external light source in claims), a light source 44 (second external light source in claims), a substrate 401 (first substrate in claims), a substrate 402 (second substrate in claims), a substrate 403 (third substrate in claims), an optical shutter 405 (first optical shutter in claims), an optical sensor 409 (first optical sensor in claims), an optical shutter 407 (second optical shutter in claims) and an optical sensor 411 (second optical sensor in claims).

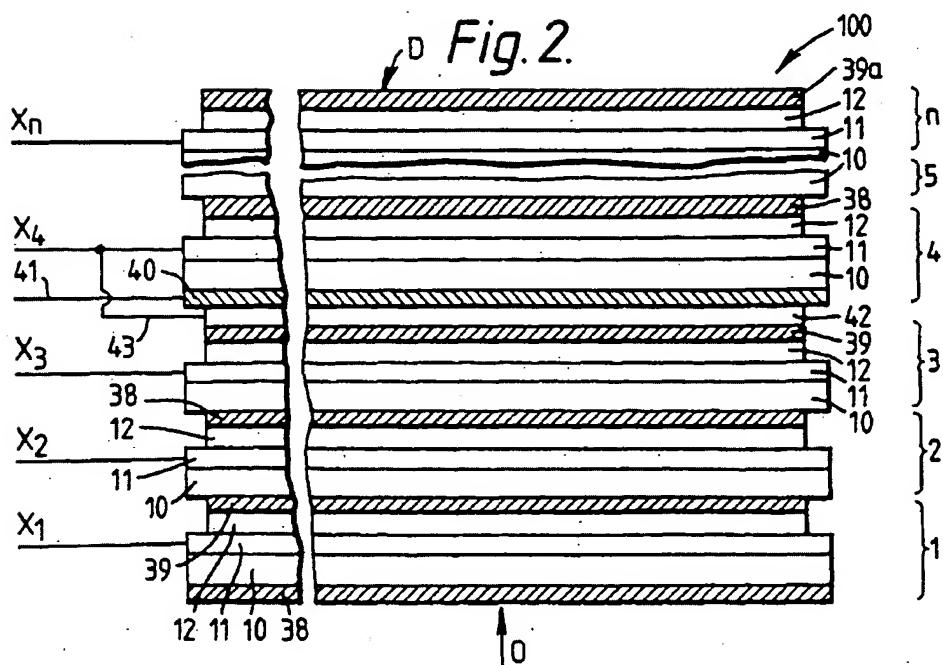


Also, a first light emitted from the light source 42 (first external light source in claims) is inputted into the optical shutter 405 (first optical shutter in claims). In a case where the optical shutter 405 (first optical shutter in claims) transmits the first light, the transmitted first light is inputted into the optical sensor 409 (first optical sensor in claims). Due to the configuration of the claimed elements, the first light transmits through the first substrate and then through the second substrate.

Further, a second light emitted from the light source 44 (second external light source in claims) is inputted into the optical shutter 407 (second optical source in claims). In a case where the optical shutter 407 (second optical shutter in claims) transmits the second light, the transmitted second light is inputted into an optical sensor 411 (second optical sensor in claims). Due to the configuration of the claimed elements, the second light transmits through the substrate in the opposite order as compared to the first light, i.e. through the third substrate, then through the second substrate and then through the first substrate.

The electronic circuit device of the present claims has two external light sources. The first substrate, the second substrate and the third substrate are provided over the second external light source. Also, the first external light source is provided over the first substrate, the second substrate and the third substrate.

Shannon does not teach first and second external light sources, either explicitly or inherently. In Shannon, it appears that all of the substrates 10 are provided over an operating light beam 0 providing a uniform background illumination. However, Shannon does not teach, either explicitly or inherently, that an external light source is provided over all of the substrates 10 (Figure 2 reproduced below).



In the present invention, the first light source, which is provided over the first substrate, the second substrate and the third substrate, is an external light source. As noted above, a first light from the first external light source transmits through the first substrate and then through the second substrate. Also, a second light from the second external light source transmits through the substrate in the opposite order as compared to the first light, *i.e.* through the third substrate, then through the second substrate and then through the first substrate. Shannon does not teach two external light sources as presently claimed, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Shannon does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects dependent claims 36 and 46 as obvious based on the combination of Shannon and U.S. Patent No. 5,491,571 to Williams. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Shannon. Williams does not cure the deficiencies in Shannon. The Official Action relies on Williams to allegedly teach the features of dependent claims 36 and 46. Specifically, the Official Action relies on Williams to allegedly teach that "the selection of a particularly level of crystallinity ... would have been within the ordinary skill level" (page 5, Paper No. 20070816). However, Shannon and Williams, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the following features or that Shannon should be modified to include any of the following features: a first external light source and a second external light source. Since Shannon and Williams do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 48-51 as obvious based on the combination of Shannon and U.S. Patent No. 4,823,178 to Suda. Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Shannon. Suda does not cure the deficiencies in Shannon. The Official Action relies on Suda to allegedly teach "a cathode electrode (16), and an anode electrode (18), and an amorphous film (17) provided between said cathode electrode and said [anode electrode]" and a "thin film transistor for reset comprising a semiconductor film (14) ... wherein said cathode electrode (16) is connected with said semiconductor film (14)" (page 6, Paper No. 20070816). However, Shannon and Suda, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the following features or that Shannon should be modified to include any of the following features: a first external light source and a second external light source. Since Shannon and Suda do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Furthermore, at this opportunity, the Applicants have further amended independent claims 33, 43 and 48 to better recite the features of the present invention. Figure 4 of the subject application is described in the specification at page 15, lines 14-23, as follows:

... In the case where whether the light inputted from a light source 42 is transmitted or not transmitted is controlled by an optical shutter 405 disposed on the transparent substrate 401, and it has been determined that the light is transmitted through the substrate, it is transmitted through the transparent substrates 401, 402, and inputted into an optical sensor 409 disposed on the transparent substrate 403. The optical sensor 409 converts the optical signal into an electric signal, and inputs it into an electric circuit disposed on the transparent substrate 403.

In accordance with this description, the Applicant has amended independent claims 33, 43 and 48 as follows: "wherein in a case where said first optical shutter transmits said first light, the transmitted first light is inputted into said first optical sensor ~~to convert said first light and is converted~~ into a first electric signal by said first optical sensor to input said first electric signal into said first electronic circuit."

Figure 4 of the subject application is described in the specification at page 16, lines 13-24, as follows:

... In the case where the light inputted from the light source 44 is transmitted through the transparent substrate 403, whether the light inputted from the light source 44 is transmitted or not transmitted is controlled by an optical shutter 407 disposed on the transparent substrate 402, and it has been determined that the light is transmitted through the substrate, it is transmitted through the transparent substrates 401, and inputted into an optical sensor 411 disposed on the transparent substrate 401. The optical sensor 411 converts the optical signal into an electric signal, and inputs it into an electric circuit disposed on the transparent substrate 401.

In accordance with this description, the Applicant has amended independent claims 33, 43 and 48 as follows: "wherein in a case where said second optical shutter transmits said second light, the transmitted second light is inputted into said second optical sensor ~~to convert said second light and is converted~~ into a second electric signal by said second optical sensor to input said second electric signal into said second electronic circuit."

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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